

Having thus described the invention, it is now claimed:

1. A method for providing a subnet comprising:
storing a table associating a subnet with a broadcast key;
5 receiving a request for access to a network;
accessing the table to determine an appropriate subnet; and
transmitting the broadcast key associated with the appropriate
subnet.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said request is transmitted by a mobile data processing device.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using a separate broadcast key associated with each VLAN to encrypt the data.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the subnet comprises a wireless LAN.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the wireless LAN operates in accordance with the IEEE 802.11 standard.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the subnet comprises a VLAN.
- 25 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising a step of tagging data to determine to which subnet the data belongs.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the subnet comprises a mobile IP subnet.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising a step of tagging
5 data to determine to which subnet the data belongs.

10. A subnet comprising:
means for storing a table associating a subnet with a broadcast key;
10 means for receiving a request for access to a network;
means for accessing the table to determine an appropriate subnet;
and
means for transmitting the broadcast key associated with the appropriate subnet.
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11. The subnet according to claim 10, wherein said request is transmitted by a mobile data processing device.

12. The subnet of claim 10 further comprising a separate broadcast key associated with each VLAN to encrypt the data.
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13. The subnet of claim 10 wherein the subnet comprises a wireless LAN.

25 14. The subnet of claim 13 wherein the wireless LAN operates in accordance with the IEEE 802.11 standard.

15. The subnet of claim 10 wherein the subnet comprises a VLAN.

16. The subnet of claim 15 further comprising a tag for data to
5 determine to which subnet the data belongs.

17. The subnet of claim 10 wherein the subnet comprises a mobile IP subnet.

10 18. The subnet of claim 17 further comprising a tag for data to determine to which subnet the data belongs.